

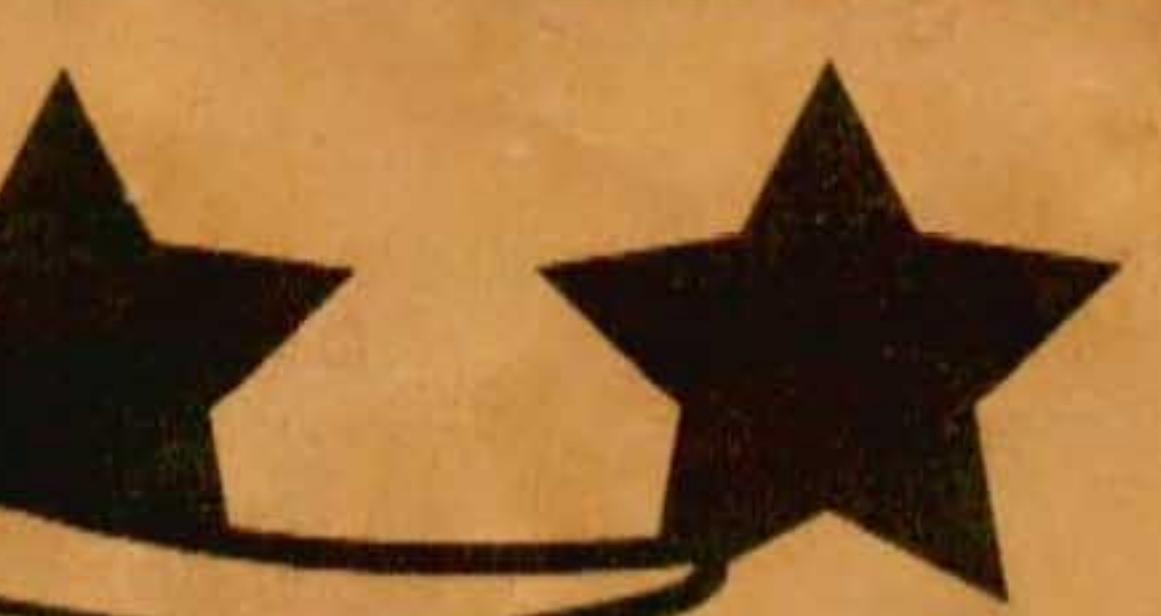
Communities remember

Front page of Rutland Herald, May 30, 2000



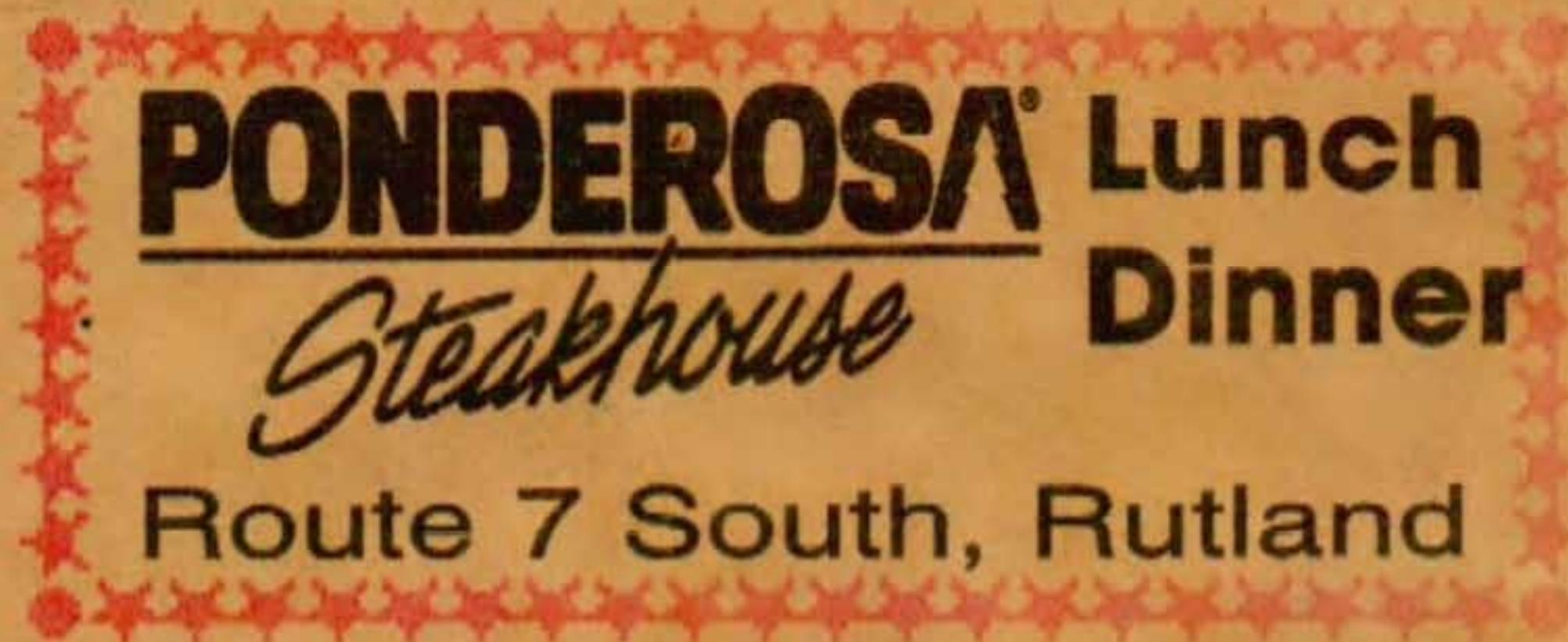
VYTO STARINSKAS/RUTLAND HERALD

Veterans from several wars join Vietnam veterans at their memorial in Main Street Park, which was dedicated Monday before hundreds of onlookers.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

INVITES THE RESIDENTS OF RUTLAND COUNTY AND OTHER VERMONTERS AND VISITORS TO ATTEND THE DEDICATION OF THE RUTLAND COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL ON MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 29 AT 2 P.M. AT THE SOUTH END OF MAIN STREET PARK, IN RUTLAND. THIS EVENT WILL HONOR THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM RUTLAND COUNTY WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR FROM 1959 TO 1975 AND ALL VETERANS.

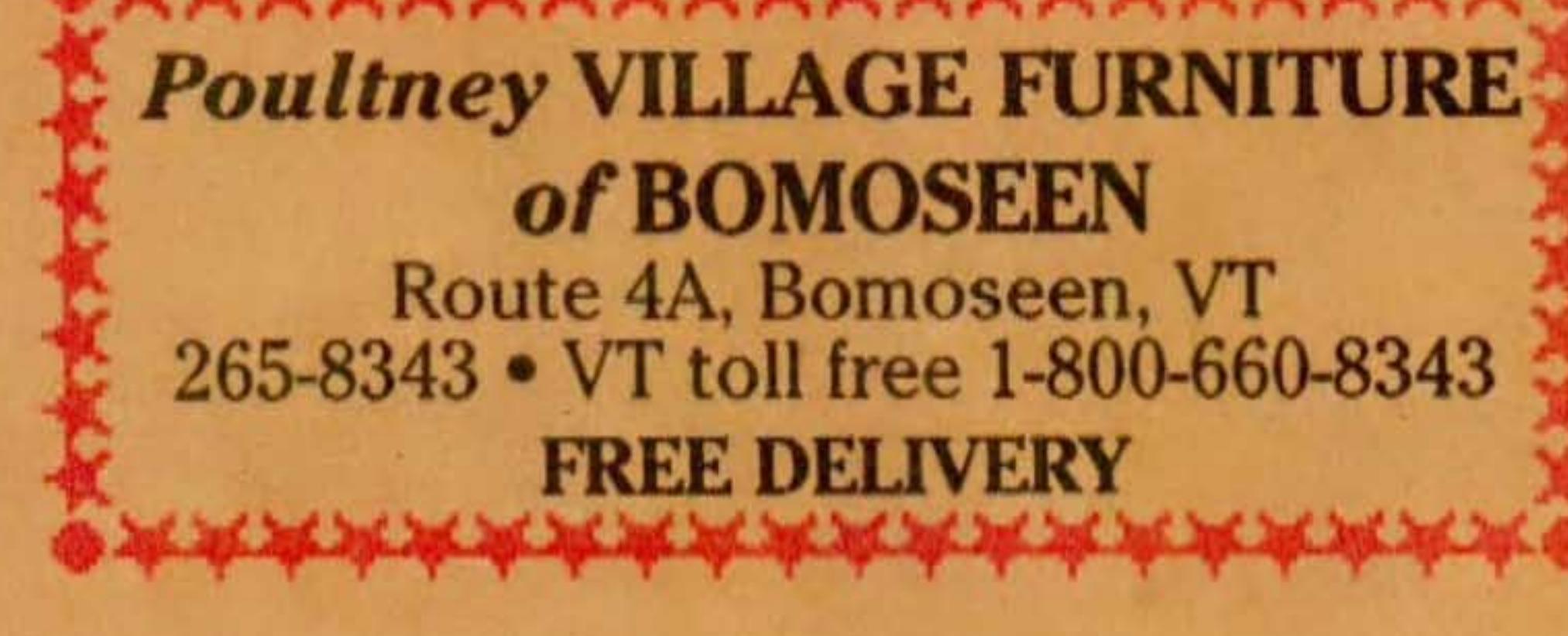
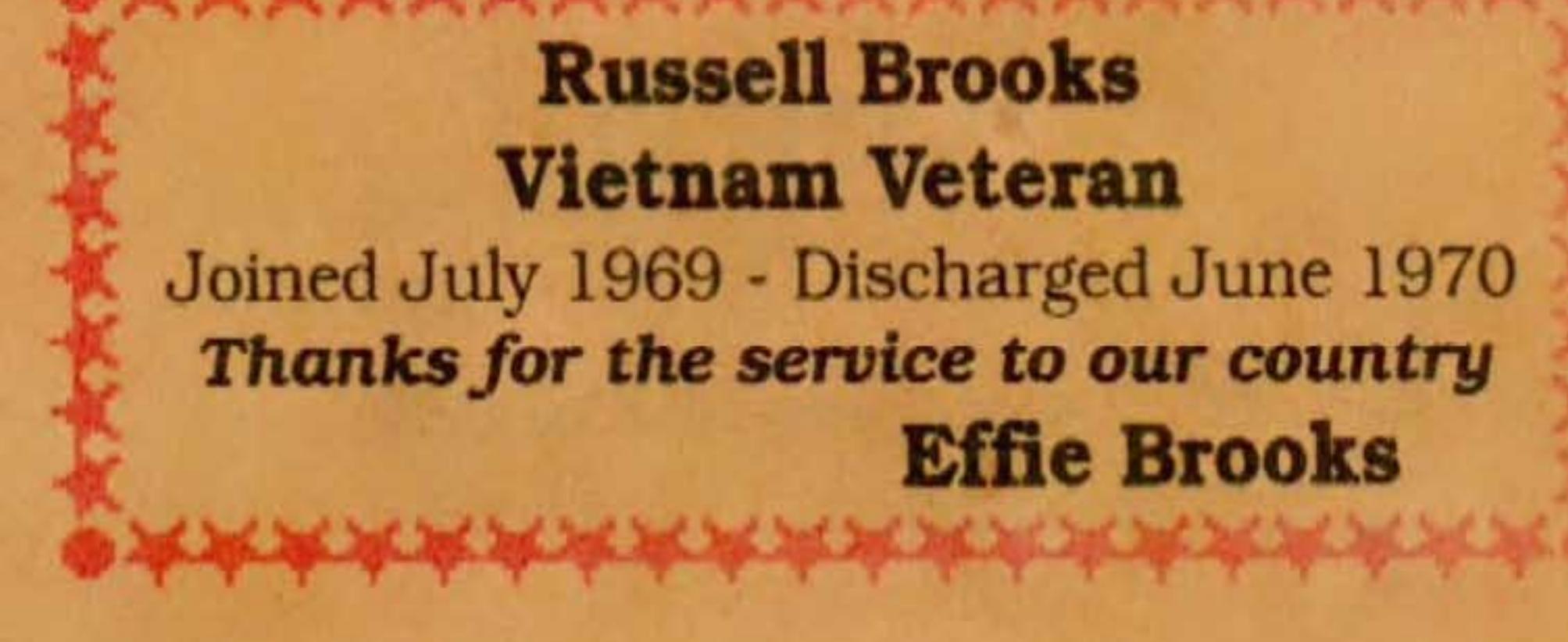
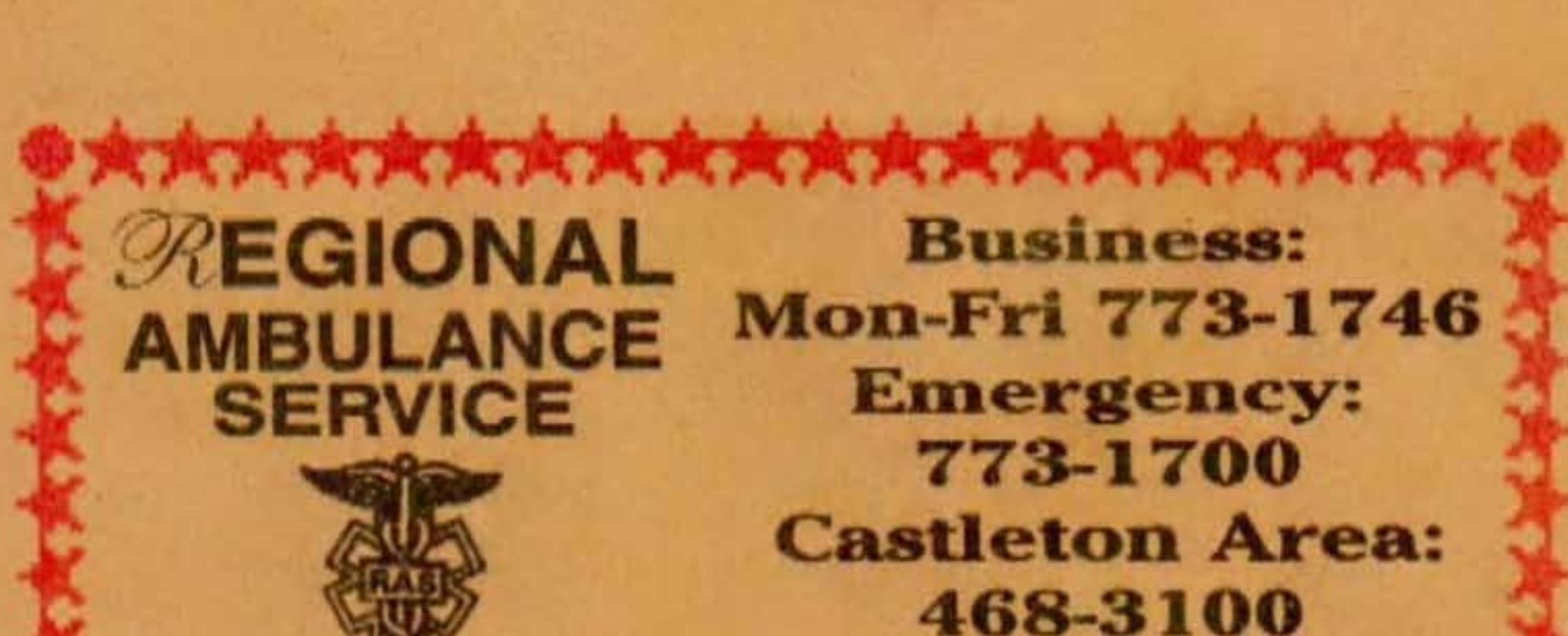
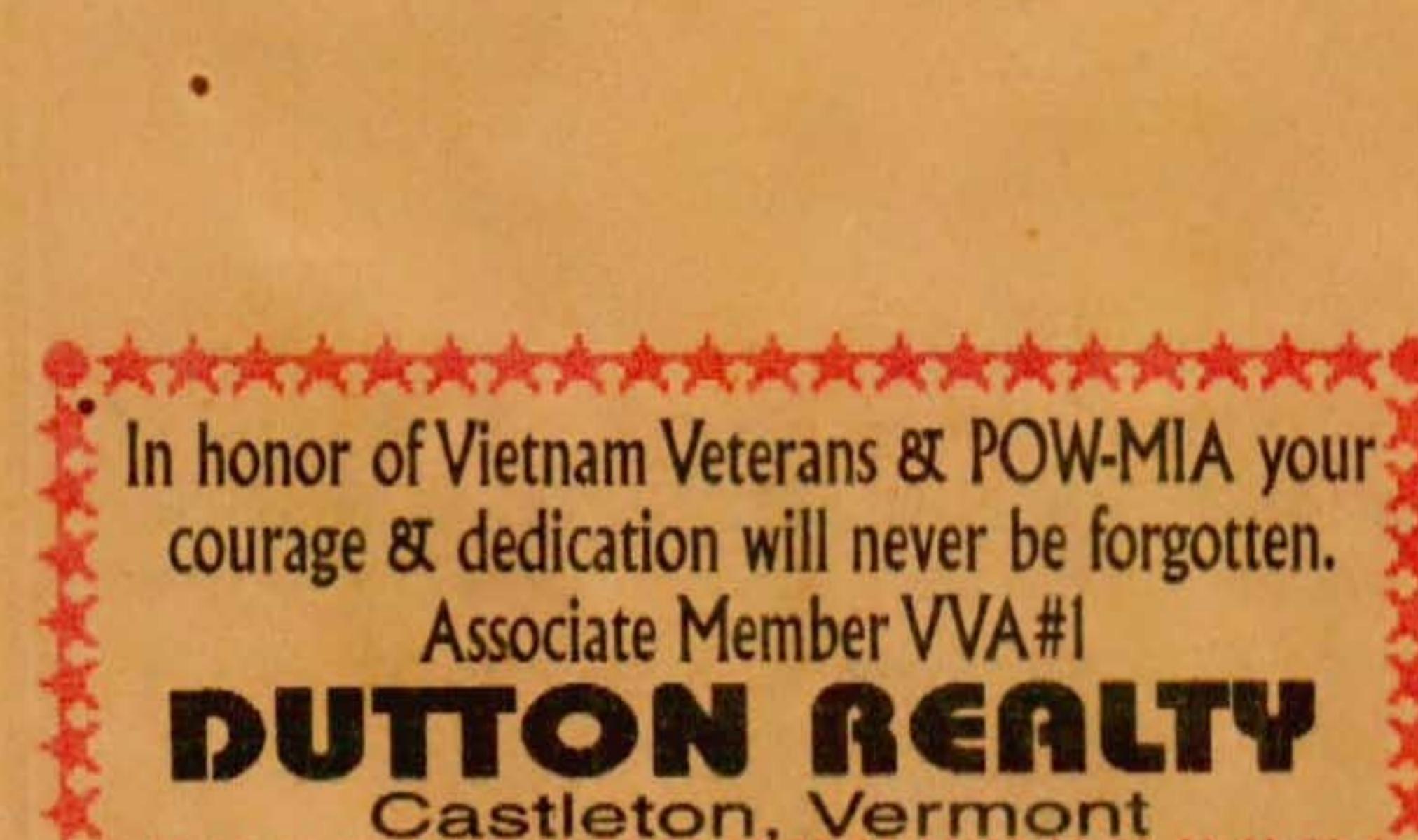
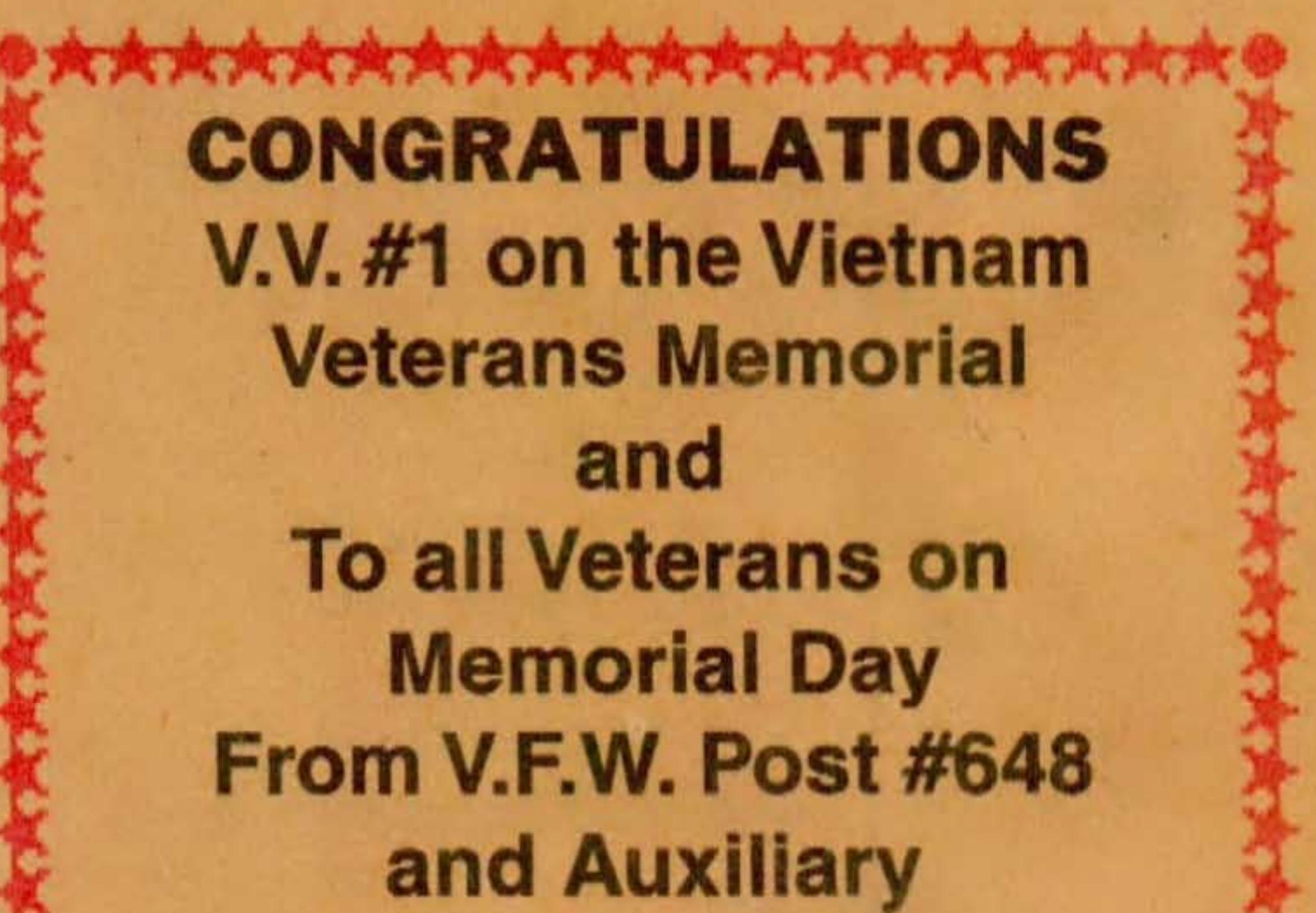
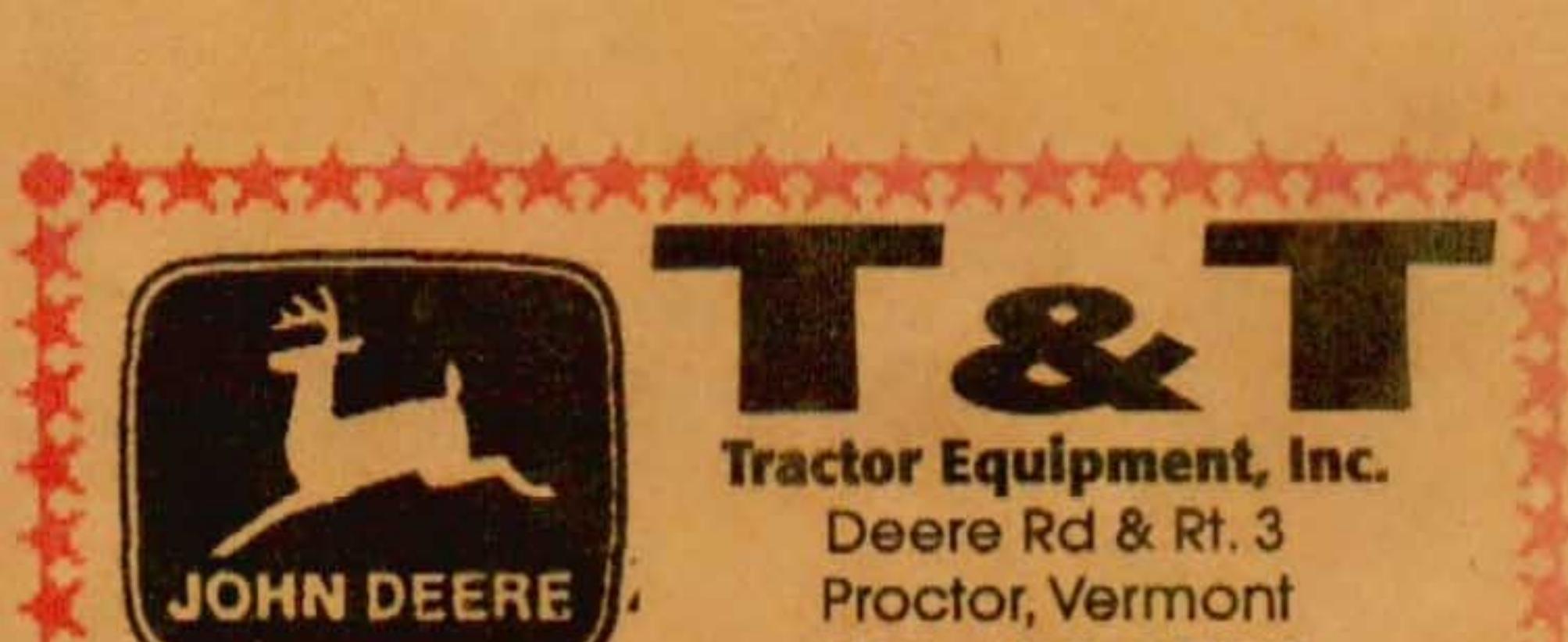
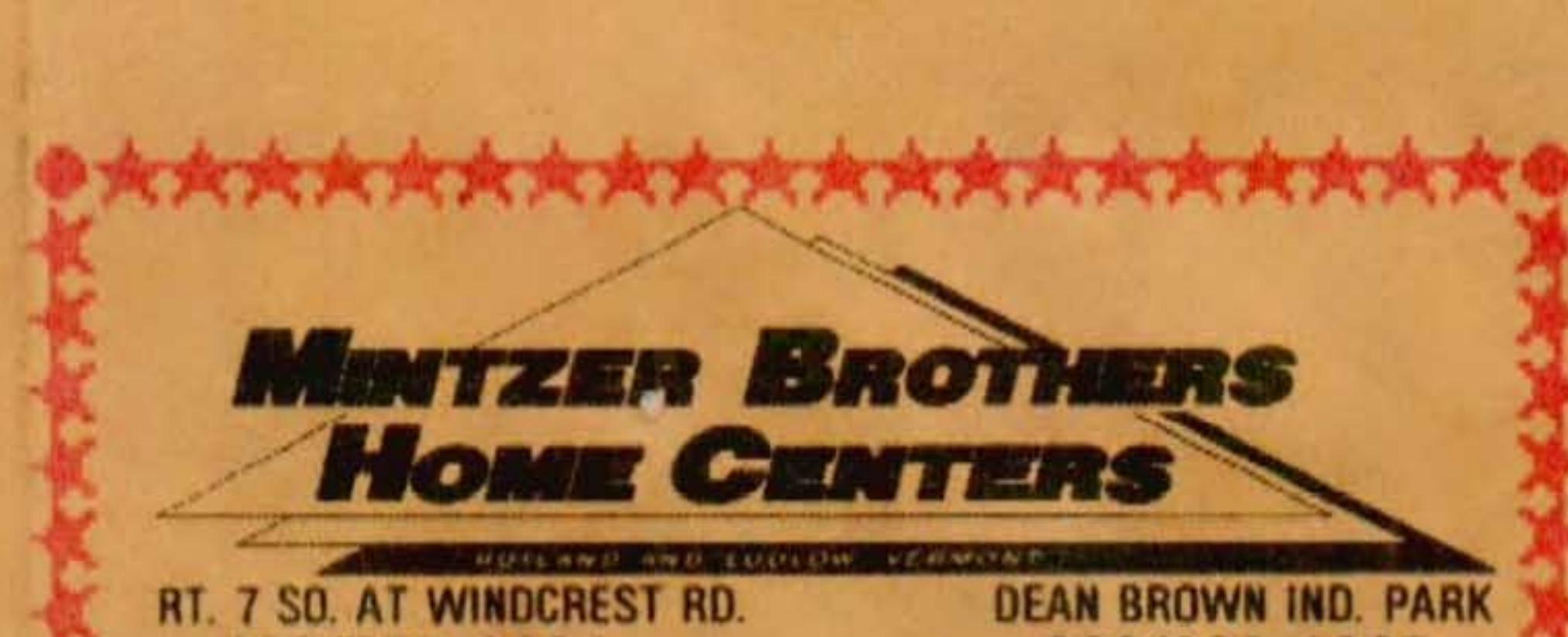
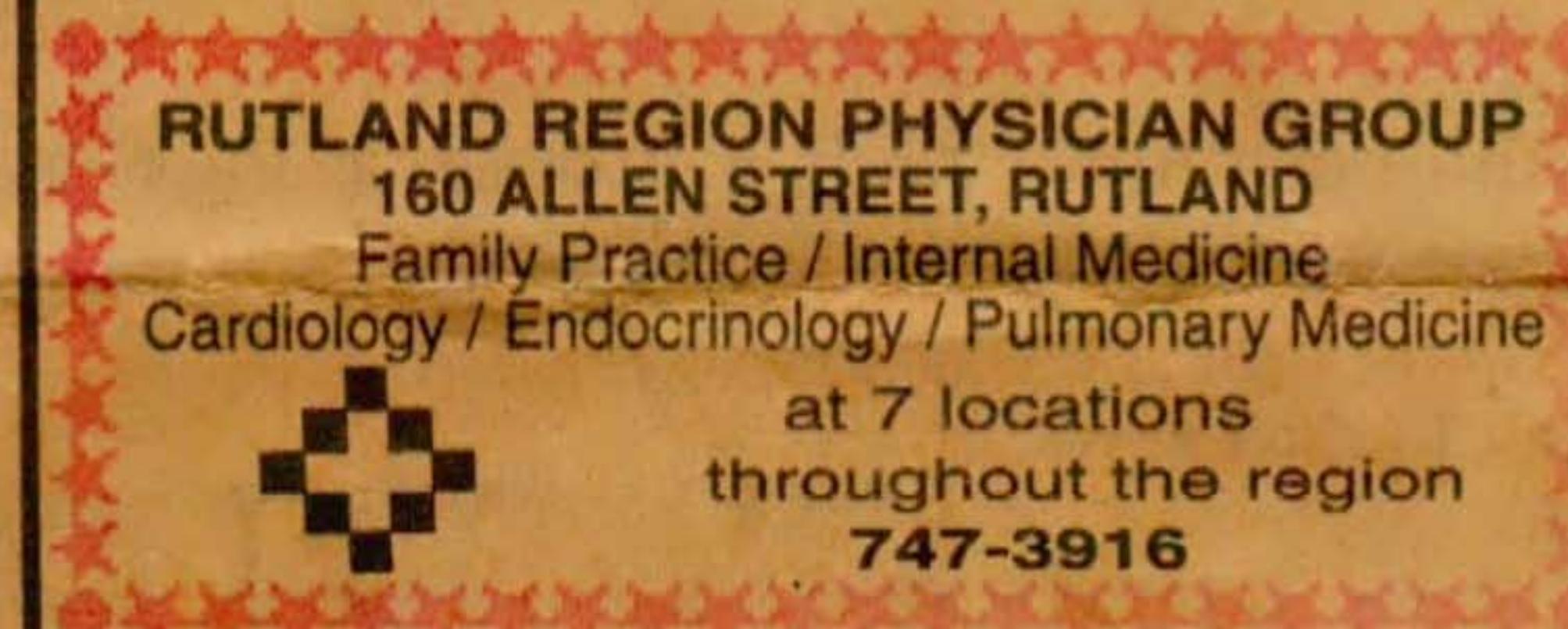
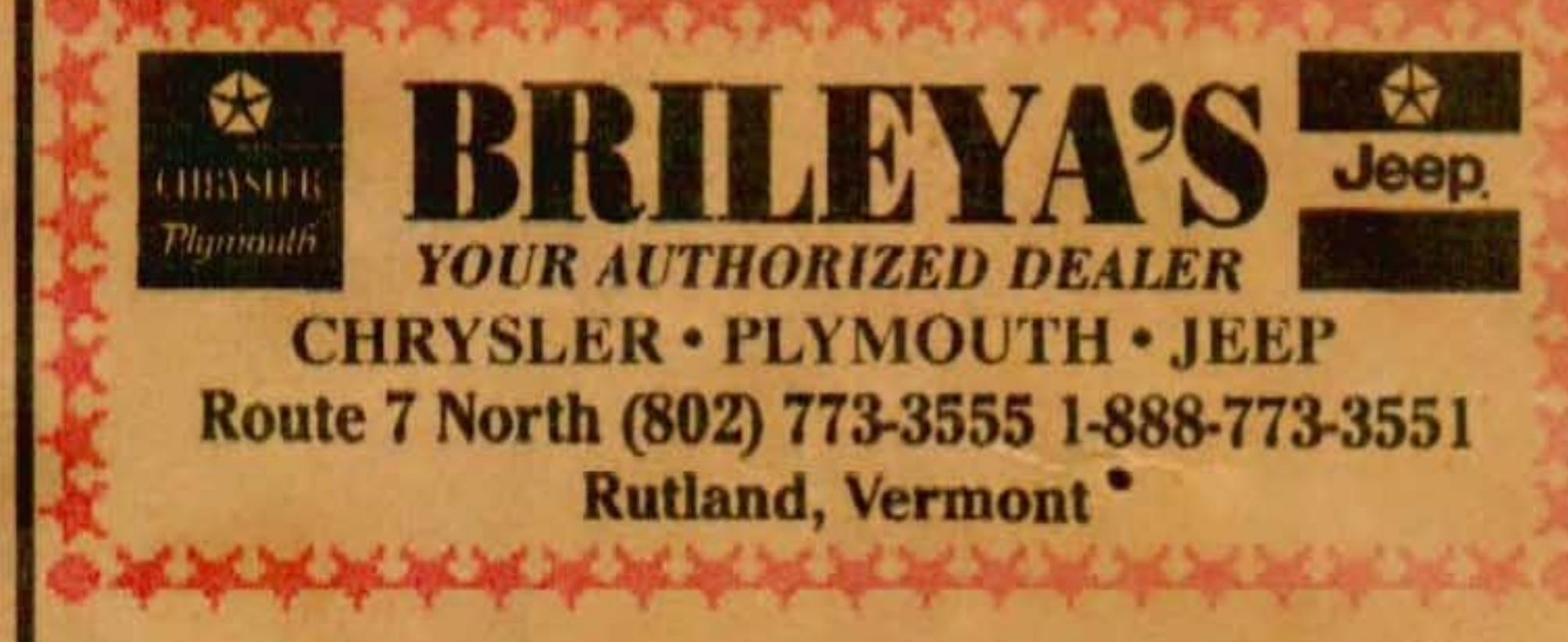


Thank You!

Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their significant contributions to the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and to the many other donors.

Please attend the dedication of the memorial Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day) at the south end of Main Street Park at 2 p.m.

Advance Music Centre	Henry A. Goddard	Pittsford Mills
Alderman's Chevrolet	Richard and Pamela Green	Pleuss Stauffer Industries
American Legion Post 31	Green Screen Graphics	R.C. Pond Co.
American Legion Post 49	Greenbrier Gift Shop	Pratico's Landscaping & Fence
Anything Graphic	Greg's Auto	Proctor Coal Co.
Appliance Service Center	Harned Fowler Post 6741, VFW	Don Ramey
Steven J. Bank, P.E.	Hawley's Florist	Tom and Carol Reardon
Best TV & Appliance	Head West	Reprographics of New England
Michael T. Boston	Howard Johnson's	Donald Robichaud
Effe and Russell Brooks	Ted Hubbard	Dennis Ross
Cabot Creamery Coop	Johnson Energy	Pete Ruby
J.P. Carrara & Sons	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Rutland Kiwanis
Carris Foundation	Killington Ski Area	Rutland Fuel
Carris Reels	Tom Lafond	Rutland Garden Club
Holiday Inn	Leather Fashions	Rutland Marble & Granite Co.
Central Vermont Public Service	Lertola's Toyota	Seasons Circle
David Cleary	Maple Meadow Farm	Sensible Shoe
John Clogston	Hugh S. McLeod III	Sevigny's Hunting & Fishing
John Colombo	McDonald's (Rutland)	Norman Sevigny
Comfort Inn	Merriam Graves	Faie Shepard
Cortina Inn	Midway Diner & Restaurant	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silva
Cyclone Ventures	Buddy and Jim Miles	Smalley Contractors
Densmore Electric	Mintzer Brothers	Stafford Tech. Eng. Design Class
Design Graphics	Elizabeth Moulton	T & T Tractor
Paula and Joe Donaldson	Kevin Mullin	Talk of the Town Hairstyling
John A. Drew	National Railroad Passenger Corp.	Town of Rutland
H.A. Eddy	New England Outdoors	Vermont Crane Service
Edson Det., Marine Corps League	N.H. International Speedway	Victoria Crossing
El's Auto Body	Noonan Transportation Co.	VFW Post 648
Essential Alternatives	Otter Creek Brewing	F.W. Webb
Edward Fabian Earth Moving	Bob Parker, Architect	West Rutland Rotary Club
Firs Vermont Bank	Party Store	Westminster Crackers
Christine F. Giddings	Patch's Petroleum	Westside Press
John and Elizabeth Gilligan	Paul's Cleaners	Laurie Wilson
Gill's Deli		



Returning a salute

On May 29 I attended the dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Main Street Park. My hat is off to John Bergeron and all those who made it a reality. And where better than my old hometown?

Although the ceremony and the size of the crowd were moving, and I met many of

my old
Mount
St.
Joseph
class-
mates

Commentary

John Gilligan

there, I've been happily sad this evening after returning home to Barre. It was on my mind throughout my drive home, and if I don't write it now, I never will.

Toward the end of the ceremony, I was moving along the back of the crowd with my camcorder. As I moved along, I had to excuse myself often as I cut in front of several people. At the edge of the guest tent, there was a family with small children.

When I said excuse me, a little boy with curly reddish-brown hair, probably no more than 4 or 5 years old, threw me a somewhat nervous salute, and our eyes met for a brief moment. It was probably my Vietnam Veterans of America cap or jacket that prompted his reaction.

With my hands full of camcorder, I didn't return his salute and moved on to take more pictures. However, the picture of this little boy continued to develop in the dark-

**'Then in a park in
Rutland today a lot of that
hurt vanished in a
moment with a little boy's
salute.'**

room of my mind and hasn't left.

It reminded me of an old family picture of myself and my uncle, Bernie Riter, in 1945, standing in our front lawn across from Mount St. Joseph. Bernie in his master sergeant uniform and Bronze Star recently returned from service with the Mountain Division in Italy and me at age 4 holding a nine iron upside down like a flag in salute — so proud and in awe of my brave uncle.

Years later my brother Mike and I came home to Vermont from Southeast Asia as Bernie had and many uncles from World War II and Korea before us. Our return in 1969 was reminiscent of a Kingston Trio song of that era, "Doesn't Anybody Know My Name?"

The hurt and spiritual pain inflicted on so many returning veterans by their countrymen was far more devastating than any NVA rocket or bullet could inflict. And many like me buried it, were sickened by

it, and carry those invisible wounds to this day. Jaded, cynical and often self-destructive, we coped and lived out our lives as best we could with varying degrees of success. Brother Mike never said much. He died four years ago.

Then in a park in Rutland today a lot of that hurt vanished in a moment with a little boy's salute. In that brief twinkling of a chance encounter, much happened within me.

I felt a renewed optimism that the future of our country and our state need not cause worry and concern. In that young face, I saw a faith in the present, a hope for the future, and a respect for the past.

I looked around for the little family afterwards but was unable to find them. I wanted to return his salute, belatedly, and to thank them for something even better than a parade or monument. Perhaps his parents will read this and give him a hug for us. They must be very fine parents to have taught him that.

So I am returning that salute with this letter, and although my eyes might be a little damp when I retire tonight, I want to thank Vietnam Veterans of America No. 1, Rutland, and a tousle-haired little guy for a wonderful day. You have done good. And the terms duty, honor, country aren't just words. They live on with you.

John Gilligan of Barre is a retired U.S. Air Force captain and a retired state purchasing agent.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

May 2000



Dedication of Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2 P.M., Main Street Park, Rutland

Chapter 1 is pleased to invite its members, their friends and families and the general public to the much-anticipated dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 29 at 2 p.m. in Main Street Park in Rutland.

As this newsletter is written, the Memorial Committee of Chapter 1, headed by Andy Moschetto, is pushing hard to complete the memorial and to finalize details of the ceremony. The concrete walkway of the memorial has been poured and stamped with a cobblestone pattern, the flagpole is up, and the plantings area has been filled in with topsoil. The center sculpture is complete and ready for delivery. Engraving of the names of those killed in action will be done shortly.

Here is the outline of the ceremony as it stands now:

Entrance of color guard to bagpipe accompaniment. Raising of colors

Invocation by Rev. Gil Ott of Poultney

Welcome by Rutland Mayor John Cassarino

Chapter 1 President John Bergeron provides some background on the chapter and the sculpture of the soldier that forms the centerpiece of the memorial

Thanks from Andy Moschetto to many supporters of the memorial project

Musical selection

Unveiling of marble sculpture, completed by Don Ramey

Reading by Mary Margaret Ryan and Barbara Gleason of honor roll. Presentation of flowers to family members. Flowers will be placed near engraved names on the base of the sculpture.

Firing squad salute

Taps and echo

Benediction

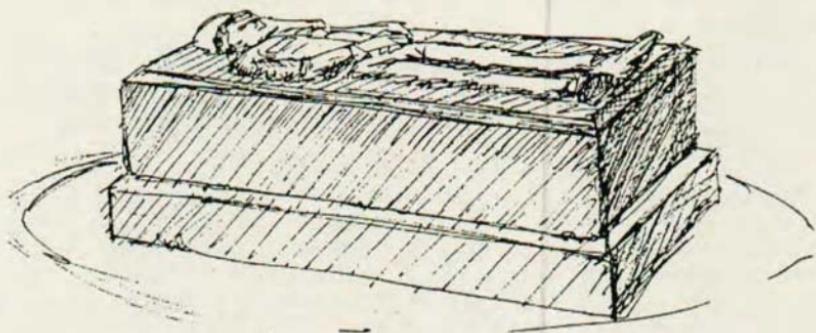
Although the memorial project was largely conceived and executed over the last four years, it owes much to the spirit of early efforts at self-help by local Vietnam veterans: Donald Bodette, Jake Jacobsen, Albert and Mary Trombley, Mike Dodge, Dennis Ross and Mark Truhan, among others. And it was John Reno's idea for a marble sculpture, and his early work on the sculpture, that spawned the idea for the memorial itself.

Sadly, Bodette, Dodge, Ross and Reno are not with us to share this tribute to their efforts and to the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans. Without them, however, this occasion would not have arrived.

Please come to our ceremony and honor them and all who served.

DEDICATION

Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial



**FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM RUTLAND COUNTY
WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR
1959-1975
AND FOR ALL VETERANS**

**May 29, 2000
2 O'clock
Main Street Park, Rutland**

*Sponsored By:
Chapter 1*

Vietnam Veterans of America



HONOR ROLL

Killed in Action

Allen Archer, Rutland	Harvey Howard, Danby
Edward Birmingham, Rutland	Joseph LaRose, Clarendon
Roger Clark, Pittsfield	Bruce Morrison, Proctor
Gilford Dashner, Shrewsbury	Steven Pettis, West Haven
Richard Dexter, Rutland	Joseph Silva, Rutland
Joseph Fish, Rutland	John Sweeney, Poultney
Phillip Greene, Poultney	David Underhill, Rutland
Gary Hall, Shrewsbury	Kenneth Weightman, Wallingford
Edward Henry, Clarendon	Dennis Wilbur, Sherburne

Served in the Vietnam War

Bruce Adams, Clarendon	Richard Fenton, Rutland	Arthur Nemeth, Wallingford
Chris Allen, Pawlet	William Fitzgerald, Rutland	John O'Flaherty, Rutland
Robert Ahlquist, Rutland	Stephen Frankiewicz, Rutland	Richard Parrott, West Haven
Mason Alexander, Poultney	Bradley Frederick, Wallingford	James Patten, Rutland
Gordon Austin, Castleton	Walter Frederick, Wallingford	Carroll Paul, Castleton
Douglas Barrett, Rutland	Thomas French, Wallingford	George Petty, Rutland
Michael Barron, Rutland	Carl Fuller, Hubbardton	Charles Popovitch, Rutland
Myles Bethel, Poultney	Kenneth Gee, Rutland	Alphonse Poromski, Pittsford
Donald Bodette, Rutland	David Gilman, Rutland	David Potter, Rutland
Thomas Bromley, Danby	Barbara Gleason, Rutland	Mitchell Preodom, Rutland
Russell Brooks, Wells	David Gouchoe, Rutland	Norbert Rafter, Rutland
Charles Brough, Castleton	Edward Grabowski, Rutland	Donald Ravenna, Rutland
Jerome Brown, Rutland	Thomas Grace, Pittsford	Thomas Reardon, Rutland
Frank Bump, Proctor	Ronald Hall, Shrewsbury	Nathaniel Reed, Clarendon
Larry Cameron, Rutland	Detlef Hansen, Shrewsbury	Albert Reynolds, Wallingford
Leo Carvey, Castleton	George Herrick III, Wallingford	Louis Rousseau, Rutland
Robert Carvey, Castleton	William Higgins, West Rutland	James Ryan, Mendon
Louis Cendrowski, Rutland	John Holden, Clarendon	Mary Margaret Ryan, Rutland
William Champine, Proctor	Kenneth Hollman, Rutland	David Sargent, Chittenden
Donald Chioffi, Rutland	Walter Hollman, Rutland	Phil Savery, Rutland
Edward Chisamore, Wallingford	Clark Howland, Rutland	Norman Sevigny, Rutland
Salvatore Clarino, Rutland	Edward Hults, West Rutland	Robert Sharp, Rutland
Gary Clark, Rutland	John Jozwiak, Rutland	Thomas Sheehan, Rutland
John Clogston, Rutland	Dale King, Rutland	Richard Sheridan, Rutland
Howard Cobb, Rutland	Edward Lafond, Rutland	Hadwin Sherman, Wallingford
Jon Cole, Rutland	Thomas Lafond, Rutland	Roland Smith, Brandon
Glen Coltey, Rutland	Michael LaPiana, Rutland	Jonathan Snow, Brandon
Richard Coltey, Rutland	Edward Lapine, Proctor	Michael Snow, Brandon
Alton Coolidge, Wallingford	Joseph Lynch, Rutland	Glenn Spaulding, Rutland
Bartley Costello, Rutland	Thomas McGann, Rutland	Charles Spencer, Clarendon
Thomas Costello, Rutland	Terrance McLaughlan, Rutland	Richard Spooner, Chittenden
Ben Cram, Castleton	Hugh McLeod, Rutland	Harold Swanson, Rutland
Olin Deforge, Rutland	Harold McLeod, Rutland	William Sweeney, Fair Haven
Joe Donaldson, Rutland	Adrian McGrath, West Rutland	Ernest Taylor, Brandon
John Drew, Pittsford	Jon Melen, Rutland	Donald Thompson, Rutland
Wilbur Dubray, Rutland	William Merrill, Rutland	Albert Trombley, Rutland
Stanley Dulski, Rutland	Edward Merrow, Danby	David Vadnais, Castleton
Michael Dunn, Rutland	James Merrow, Rutland	Gary Wetmore, Proctor
Charles Dupre Jr., Rutland	Eugene Miner, Rutland	Leon Whipple, Proctor
Chester Eaton, Rutland	Donald Monahan, Rutland	Tom Whittaker, Brandon
John Eaton, Rutland	Ralph Morgan, Pittsford	Lawrence Young, Rutland
	Thomas Neary, Rutland	

PROGRAM

Entrance of Color Guards With Bagpiper James Perlee

Opening – John Bergeron, Pres. Chap. 1 VVA

Flag Raising

Invocation – Rev. Gil Ott[‡]

Mayor's Welcome – Hon. John Cassarino

The Memorial – John Bergeron

Special Thanks – Andrew Moschetto, Memorial Chairman

Recognition of Vietnam Veterans Present

Reading of the Honor Roll – Mary Margaret Ryan & Barbara Gleason[†]

“Who We Are, Who We Were” – James E. Ryan*

Rifle Salute by Vietnam Veterans

Taps and Echo – Names of 2 Kids

Benediction – Rev. Ott

[‡]Rev. Gil Ott is minister of the Poultney United Methodist Church. He is a combat veteran of Vietnam, having served with the 101st Airborne Division.

[†]Mary Margaret Ryan and Barbara Gleason Venbjerg served as Army nurses in Vietnam during 1967-68, including the time of the Tet Offensive.

* James E. Ryan of Northfield is a native of Rutland and a graduate of MSJ and UVM. He spent 8 years in the Air Force, reaching the rank of captain. During 1971-73, he flew more than 200 combat missions in F-4 Phantom fighters and B-52 bombers over Southeast Asia as a navigator and bombardier. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism. He is currently an assistant professor of criminal Justice at Norwich University in Northfield.

Following the ceremony, those attending will be able to take a fragment from the stone chips created in the carving of the sculpture.

FROM JOHN RENO'S STRUGGLE CAME A SOLDIER CARVED IN STONE

The stone that lies at the center of this memorial lay as an abandoned remnant from an old marble plant until Vietnam veteran John Reno used it for an artistic expression of his war and post-war experiences.

John had struggled with depression and recurring flashbacks following his Vietnam service. Begun in 1981, the sculpture became a means to work through his anger and pain. But when he died suddenly in a boating accident in 1982, his artistic vision of a soldier lay neglected for years in a Fair Haven quarry.

Finally in 1995, a fellow Vietnam-era veteran, John Bergeron, went hunting for it. The rediscovery and the symbolism of the stone became a focal point for the memorial that surrounds it.

A sculptor from West Rutland, Don Ramey, graciously took on the task of completing the sculpture as a tribute to veterans, applying his own creativity and skills to John's basic concept.

This memorial was sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1, based in Rutland, whose first members were among Reno's close friends. The memorial was made possible by the generous contributions of scores of businesses and individual supporters.

SPECIAL THANKS

Memorial Committee: Andrew Moschetto (chair), John Bergeron, Jack Crowther, Ernest Smalley, Valerie Cleary, Laurie Wilson

Dedication Committee: John Bergeron, Andrew Moschetto, Jack Crowther, Jim Ryan, Mary Margaret Ryan, Donna Risley, Tom Reardon, Steve Faye, Bill Higgins, Bob Rummel

Sculpture: Don Ramey

Landscaping: Rutland Garden Club

Memorial Design: Stafford Technical Center Engineering Design Class, Mike Handley (winning design)

Rut. County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Donors 1

(7/27/00)

Advance Music Centre Merchants Row Rutland, VT PA for ceremony	Douglas C. Barrett RR1 Box 3625 Fair Haven, VT 05743-9710 \$10	Center Sport Health Club Attn. Betty Polzello Holiday Inn 411 S. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 2 1-month memberships
Alderman's Chevrolet Attn. Phil Alderman PO Box 6287 Rutland, VT 05701-6287 \$100	Best TV & Appliance 120 Woodstock Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25 donation	Central Vermont Public Service Corp. Attention Hilde Sparrow 77 Grove St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$250
American Legion Post 31 33 Washington St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$300	Michael T. Boston 60 Franklin St. Brandon, VT 05733 \$100	Chris \$10
American Legion Post 49 Main St. Fair Haven, VT 05743 \$100 donation	Effie & Russell Brooks RFD Box 1021 Wells, VT 05774-9604 \$25, in honor of Russell	Edith Clark RD #1 Box 122 Shrewsbury, VT \$20
Don and Sharon Amorosi 14 Catherine St. S. Glens Falls, NY 12804 \$25	Cabot Creamery Coop Inc. Attn. Margaret 128 Main St. Cabot, VT 05647 \$500	Valerie and David Cleary South Mendon Rd. Mendon, VT 05701 coordination of landscaping for Garden Club (Valerie) landscaping donation (David)
Anything Graphic Attn. Norma Montaigne Route 7 Pittsford, VT 05763 graphic services	Cal's Barber Shop canister	John Clogston Briarwood Lane Rutland, VT 05701 drafting services for monument design
Appliance Service Center 152 Woodstock Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 vacuum cleaner--\$250 value no longer there	J.P. Carrara & Sons PO Box 60 N. Clarendon, VT 05759-0060 Concrete	Ira Colby Vermont Tubbs
Allen Archer's aunt \$5	Carris Foundation PO Box 696 Rutland, VT 05702-0696 \$500	John Colombo 6973 Southridge Riverside, CA 92506 \$10
Paula Baker Windy Lane North Clarendon, VT made copies	Carris Foundation PO Box 696 Rutland, VT 05702 \$1,000 (same as donations above and below?)	Comfort Inn PO Box 493 Killington, VT 05751 1 night's accommodations/Queen Suite
Steven J. Banik, P.E. 503 Crown Point Rd. Shrewsbury, VT 05738 Structural engineering services	Carris Reels PO Box 696 Rutland, VT 05702-0696 Employee owners \$500 (different from donation above?) ask Tom Reardon	John and Elizabeth Gilligan A-6 Westview Condominiums 122 Batchelder St. Barre, VT 05641 \$50 in memory of Michael T. Gilligan John B.--got address from member list. OK?

Rut. County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Donors 2

(7/27/00)

Cortina Inn Attn. Bob and Breda Harnish 103 US Rte. 4 Killington, VT 05751 real ultimate weekend for 2, \$125 value; thanks to Cheryl	H.A. Eddy Rutland 100 gallons of fuel sold to another company	Christine F. Giddings Parker Hill Rd. Pittsford, VT 05763 \$100 donation
Cyclone Ventures 553 Conklin Rd. Conklin, NY 13748 \$25	Edson Detachment Marine Corps League PO Box 101 Rutland, VT 05702-0101 \$100	John and Elizabeth Gilligan A-6 Westview Condominiums 122 Batchelder St. Barre, VT 05641 \$50 in memory of Michael T. Gilligan John B.--got address from member list. OK?
Leif Dahlin, Supt. Rutland Dept. of Recreation & Parks 39 East Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 general support of project	Eli's Auto Body Inc. Attn. David & Janet Vadnais PO Box 1525 Castleton, VT 05735 \$25	Gill's Deli 68 Strong's Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25
Densmore Electrical Supply Inc. 90 Cleveland Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$30	R.A. Ellis Inc. P.O. Box 462 Castleton, VT 05735-0462 mulch	Mr. Henry A. Goddard PO Box 13 Poultney, VT 05765--0013 287-9867 \$130
Design Graphics Attn. Mark Godnick 225 S. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 Routing of memorial sign	Essential Alternatives 22 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25 gift certificate	Grand Union Attn. Susanne Marsh 823 Main St. Clifton Park, N.Y. 12065 \$15 food voucher
Deter Security Inc. Attn. Steve Faye 223 S. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 Contribution	Edward Fabian Earth Moving 1409 Pleasant St. West Rutland, VT 05777 Cleanup, topsoil & other services	Richard and Pamela Green Loop Road Poultney, VT 05764 cotton candy machine
Stanley Dolski major fund raiser	Russell Farmer RR 2 Box 7390 Rutland, VT 05701 \$10	Green Screen Graphics Attn. Mike Gauthier 122 Merchants Row Rutland, VT 05701 Design and painting of sign, screen printing of display panels
Paula and Joe Donaldson 1 Sharon Dr. Fair Haven, VT 05743 \$100	First Vermont Bank 77 Merchants Row Rutland, VT 05701 \$50 savings bond	Greenbrier Gift Shop Attn. Kathy Iannantuoni PO Box 286 Killington, VT 05751 silk flower bouquet
John A. Drew RR 3 Box 7211 Rutland, VT 05701-9268 \$25	Flory's Snackbar & Diner canister	
Eastman's 66-70 Merchant's Row Rutland, VT 05701 \$10 gift certificate	Libby Forte 38 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$10 toss pillow	
Sandra Gartner 1 Piedmont Dr. Rutland, VT 05701 \$75	Sandra Gartner 1 Piedmont Dr. Rutland, VT 05701 \$75	

Rut. County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Donors 3

(7/27/00)

Greg's Auto Greg Danyow 74 Strong Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25	Mike Keith Inc. RR 1 Box 1125-10 Brandon, VT 05701 \$10	Al Melanson Co. Inc. 126 Spruce St. Rutland, VT 05701 metal to support sculpture
Mike Handley 156 Henry Cowgill Rd. Camden Wyoming, DE 19934-2758 winning design	Kentucky Fried Chicken 153 South Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$15.35 family meal	Merriam Graves Attn. Donald L. Monahan 184 Woodstock Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 donated helium tank for jamboree
Harned-Fowler Post 6741 VFW PO Box 181 Manchester Center, VT 05255-0181 \$200	Killington Kathi Altobell Killington Road Killington, VT 05751-9708 2 1-day ski passes, \$48 each	Midway Diner & Rest. 120 S. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$20
Hawley's Florist 29 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$10 gift certificate	Tom LaFond 122 Crescent St. West Rutland, VT 05777 painting services	Buddy and Jim Miles Concrete Concepts 172 St. John St. Rutland, VT 05701 Concrete work
Head West Attn. Craig Averill Green Mountain Plaza Route 7 South Rutland, VT 05701 [old address-moved] \$25 gift certificate out of business?	Leather Fashions 155 Woodstock Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25 gift certificate out of business?	Lilian (sp?) Miller 5 Kingsley Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$10
William C. Herrick 2274 Patriot Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37130	Lertola's Toyota Rt. 3 Proctor, VT 05765 \$100	Mintzer Bros. Attn. Allen Gartner Windcrest Road Rutland, VT 05701 10 nail bags and materials
Highway Dept. official \$10	Maple Meadow Farm Inc. RR 1 Box 365 Salisbury, VT 05769-9730 2 qts. maple syrup	Mr. Twitter's Attn. Becky and Joe Rizzi Route 7 North Rutland, VT 05701 donated all the flowers and pavers
Howard Johnson 378 South Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 2 night stay (\$130 value)	Hugh S. McLeod III 43592 Rivergate Dr. Clinton Township, MI 48038 \$50 donation	Elizabeth Moulton PO Box 361 Castleton, VT 05735 468-5703 \$50
Ted Hubbard Sr. Inc. 1712 Cold River Rd. North Clarendon, VT 05759 portable toilet	McDonald's Charles Coughlin PO Box 6004 Rutland, VT 05702-6004 \$25	Kevin Mullin RR 1 Box 4127 Oxyoke Dr. Rutland, VT 05701 \$50
Johnson Energy PO Box 12 Rt. 4A Center Rutland, VT 05736 100 gallons of fuel oil	McNeil & Reedy 81 Merchants Row Rutland, VT 05701 cologne--\$20 value	

Rut. County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Donors 4

(7/27/00)

National Railroad Passenger Corp. Marketing Dept. 555 East St. Rensselaer, NY 12144 2 round trip tickets to NYC, val. \$100 ea.	Pittsford Mills Attn. Bob Fish Route 3 Pittsford, VT 05763 Donation of wood for sign	Don Ramey 57 Campbell Ave. West Rutland, VT 05777 sculpture
New England Outdoors Attn. Mike Pratico 217 South Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 2 shirts--\$15 each	R.C. Pond Co. Inc. RR 3 Box 7262 Rutland, VT 05701 \$100	Tom and Carol Reardon RD 2 Box 2648-A Whitehall, NY 12887-9569 \$50 hand deliver
New Hampshire International Speedway Attn. Susan Gelinas PO Box 7888 Loudon, NH 03301 2 tickets for Indy racing league Aug. 17, \$55 value	Mr. and Mrs. Poremski Box 2303 Whipple Hollow Rd. Florence, VT 05744 \$20 check	Reprographics of New England Attn. Mike Kelley 230 N. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 reproductions for display boxes and mounting of KIA pix
Noonan Transportation Co. Inc. 9 Noonan Lane West Rutland, VT 05777 transport services	Dave Potter PO Box 426 North Clarendon, VT 05759 \$20 donation	Donald Robichaud 206 Stow Rd. Harvard, MA 01451 \$200
Otter Creek Brewing Inc. 85 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753-1106 Mugs worth \$25	Pratico's Landscaping & Fence Co. Attn. Skip Pratico 21 Mansfield Place Rutland, VT 05701 30% discount on plantings plus 2 trees (\$175 ea.) donated in honor of his late father, a POW in WW II	Dennis Ross RR 4 Box 2174 \$25 deceased (send to survivor?)
Pasqually's 162 N. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 canister	Proctor Coal Co. 41 School St. Proctor, VT 05765 \$30	Rutland Kiwanis PO Box 6143 Rutland, VT 05702-6143 Marble bench worth \$290
Bob Parker, Architect 24 1/2 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 architectural services	Patch's Petroleum 102 Meadow St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$50	Rutland Fuel 156 Granger St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$75
Party Store Nancy Foley Rutland, VT 75 balloons	Pleuss-Staufer Industries Inc. 61 Main St. Proctor, VT 05765 \$100	Rutland Marble and Granite Attn. John Socinski 680 East Hubbardton Rd. Castleton, VT 05735 marble
Paul's Cleaners 293 N. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$50	Price Chopper 38 Rutland Shopping Center Rutland, VT 05701 flowers for dedication present in person	Rutland Motors 261 Chase Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 \$10
		Rutland Garden Club c/o Irene Carbine 52 Litchfield Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 landscaping

Rut. County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Donors 5

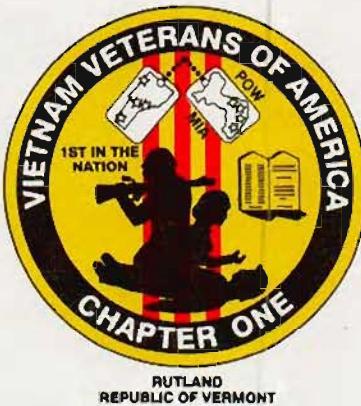
(7/27/00)

Rutland Printing Co. Attn. Sam Bellomo 267 Lincoln Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 discount on thank-you certificates	Stafford Technical Center Attn. Laurie Wilson Mountain Top Road Chittenden, VT 05737 Engineering Design Academy Class of '99	Vermont Crane Service Attn. Peter Giancola 6 Edgewood Dr. Rutland, VT 05701
Steve Sarli 144 Park St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$10	William Sweeney \$20 in memory of Jerry Collier (KIA 2/17/68) B Co.-9th Eng. 1st Marine Div. Indiana	VFW Post 648 15 Wales St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$100 donation, plus POW/MIA flag
Seasons Circle 20 Wales St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$20 gift certificate	T & T Tractor Attn. William Taranovich Deere Rd and Route 3 Proctor, VT 05765 \$60 gift certificate	VFW Post 648 Auxiliary 15 Wales St. Rutland, VT 05701 American flag
Sensible Shoe Attn. Greg Fineberg Box 7014 Woodstock Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 2 tees, \$27 value	Talk of the Town Hairstyling 9 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25 gift certificate	FW Webb Steve Pulling Cold River Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 \$25.00
Sevigny's Hunting & Fishing PO Box 749 West Rutland, VT 05777 \$100	Temptation Station 50 Merchants Row Rutland, VT 05701 \$5 gift certificate out of business	West Rutland Rotary Club West Rutland, VT 05777 \$200 mailing address?
Norman Sevigny PO Box 7 West Rutland, VT 05777 \$50	Tire Warehouse South Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$15	Westminster Crackers 8 Ranbury Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 2 cases
Faie Shepard (phone bk. spelling) RD 3 Box 3409 Brandon, VT 05733 Contributions	Tomasi's 2 Liberty St. Fair Haven, VT 05743 ripoff tickets provided steady income totaling in the thousands of dollars	Westside Press, Inc. 16 Marble St. PO Box 135 West Rutland, VT 05777 free printing of jamboree poster, \$40 value
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silva 73 Baxter St. Rutland, VT 05701 \$20	Board of Selectmen Town of Rutland Town Offices Route 4 Center Rutland, VT 05736 \$1,000	Wilk Paving Inc. Route 4 West Rutland, VT 05777 asphalt
Smalley Contractors Attn. Ernie Smalley 228 West St. Rutland, VT 05701 construction services (David Frost, Raymond Parker, Michael Buley, Patrick Towne)	Victoria Crossing 17 Center Street Rutland, VT 05701 spray perfume--\$25 value	Wilson Country Camera 37 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 QuickSnap Camera--\$13.50 value
		Woodshop Specialty Mike Shanahan Post Road Rutland, VT 05701 \$10

Rut. County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Donors 6

(7/27/00)

CONTRIBUTORS TO DEDICATION		
Bill Anderson local stockbroker get address from John B. paid for bagpiper	Jessie Hammond 180 Baxter St. Rutland, VT 05701 <i>6 Blue Ridge Hts. Meadow Dr. 05701</i> Matthew Sharp - Jessica Larson - <i>Po Box 378 Pittsford 05733</i>	Rutland Herald Attn. Glenda Hawley and Joan Hill 27 Wales St. Rutland, VT 05701 advertising space and support
Brown family 49 S. Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 sign on porch	Jessica Ryan 4 Killington Ter. Rutland, VT 05701	Rutland Herald Attn. Jo-Anne MacKenzie, City Editor 27 Wales St. Rutland, VT 05701 news coverage
Pat Dunn 43 South Main St. Rutland, VT 05701 allowed use of hose and water and electric outlet across from memorial (from phone book, James J., need to check)	Kaitlin Bailey Mountain Top Rd. Chittenden, VT 05737	Tents for Events Attn. Shawn Keith and Bill Reuther Plains Road RR 1 Box 1147 Pittsford, VT 05763 tent for ceremony
Dedication Committee members: Mary Margaret Ryan 4 Killington Ter. Rutland, VT 05701	Hon. James M. Jeffords 728 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510 speech	Mr. Jeff Wennberg 15 Grandview Ter. Rutland, VT 05701
Dawn Hance James Ryan Donna Risley Barbara Gleason Venbjerg G-9 Stonehedge Dr. S. Burlington, VT 05403	Hon. Patrick J. Leahy 433 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 donation of flag	Prime Offset Attn. Nasro Mesli 150 Woodstock Ave. Rutland, VT 05701 donation of printing of 700 programs
High School ushers and buglers recruited by M.M. Ryan	Rev. Gil Ott 10 Main St. Poultney, VT 05764 Poultney United Methodist Church invocation and benediction	Rutland Police Department Attn. Chief Anthony Bossi City Hall Rutland, VT 05701 traffic control
High School buglers	Rutland Fire Department Attn. Chief Gerald Lancour 104 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 watering of plants, aerial photo	Rutland Fire Department Attn. Chief Gerald Lancour 104 Center St. Rutland, VT 05701 watering of plants, aerial photo
Beth Peters 35 Forest St. Rutland, VT 05701		
Scott Kaufman <i>Meadow Lake Dr., Rutland</i> Ushers		
Jonathon Bove PO Box 1852 Station A Rutland, VT 05701		
Meagan Barrows - 137 Baxter St., Rutland Richard Sweet PO Box 1083 Rutland		



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER ONE**
PRESIDENT: JOHN BERGERON
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: ANDREW MOSCHETTO

PROJECT:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - Rutland, Vermont

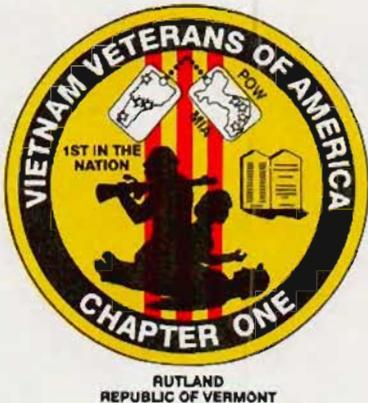
PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- * To erect a Memorial/Monument on Rutland City property, in honor of all men and woman from the Rutland County area who served in the United States armed forces during the Vietnam War.
- * To include a plaque dedicated to all Veterans from Rutland County who served during all past wars and conflicts.
- * To include as a central part of the memorial, a large block of marble which a deceased member of VVA # 1 had begun to sculpt in 1982.
- * To raise the funds necessary to complete the project (approximately \$20,000) through grants, dances, raffles, jamborees, etc.
- * To meet with city, state and federal officials to gather support for project.
- * To Contact Contractors, Artists, Community Clubs etc. about cost-out project.
- * To attempt to complete project by the second week in August 1997, to coincide with the Second Annual

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702 802-775-6772

"Our God, Our Honor, Our Duty, ALWAYS"



Vermont Vietnam Era Recognition Day Ceremonies which will be hosted in Rutland by VVA Chapter # One.

LOCATION OF MEMORIAL: (tentative)

- * West side of S. Main Street; South of Washington Street.
In Memorial Park Area to be designated and approved by local leaders.

SIZE OF MEMORIAL:

- * Approximately 500 sq. ft.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

- * VVA Chapter One is the founding chapter of a 753 Chapter Nationwide Organization dedicated to assist all Vietnam Veterans successfully live their lives to their fullest potential especially after enduring service in a military endeavor that became extremely unpopular as time progressed. Many years after the founding of VVA in Rutland, Vermont it was decided by Chapter Members to establish a memorial for local Vietnam vets. A Vietnam Vet, John Reno, began sculpting a donated block of marble, which was to be the centerpiece of the planned memorial. However, in 1982, John Reno died in a boating accident, and the project was temporarily put aside.

In 1995, upon locating the unfinished block of marble near an overgrown quarry, current VVA Chapter President, John Bergeron resurrected the memorial project by forming a committee to complete the task. The idea that Rutland, the city in which VVA was

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702 802-775-6772

"Our God, Our Honor, Our Duty, ALWAYS"



founded, to be the site of a small memorial has garnered much support from Rutland to Washington, and most appreciative of all are the Vets from the area. They are overjoyed with the prospect of having their own memorial, a place to sit and meditate, a place to go to for reflection, and to think of buddies who never came home; a place to heal their own wounds and the wounds of all Americans in all past conflicts; and a place to feel peace, and to hope for peace for the future.

ATTACHMENTS:

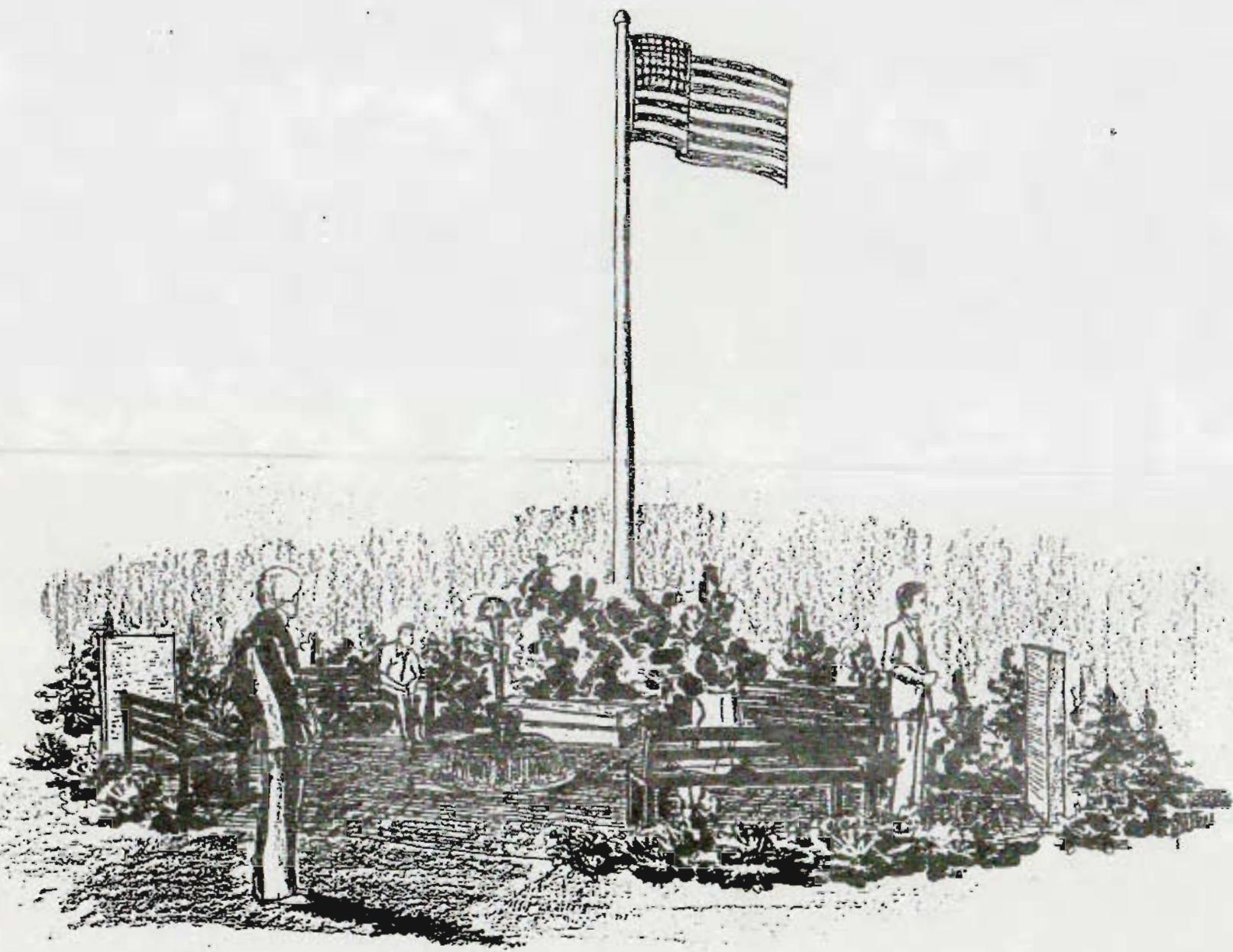
- * Copies of newspaper articles
- * Copy of artist rendering of project

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- * Memorial will consist of a landscaped area surrounding a marble block with bas relief sculptor of a soldier.
- * Four benches in garden-like setting for reflection and meditation.
- * A field cross (bronze) fountain wherein a helmet/rifle/boots will sit on a marble slab in a fountain in the center of the memorial.

NOTE:

- * The bricks ~~&~~ architect's drawing have been generously donated thus far; and greatly appreciated!



(1)

9/2/96

Vietnam Veterans Plan Memorial in City Park

By LIZ ANDERSON
Herald Staff

Rutland City officials and area Vietnam veterans will meet this week to discuss the veterans' proposal to install a memorial in Main Street Park.

The veterans envision a roughly 500-square-foot, partially enclosed garden and terrace that will function as a tribute to area residents who served in the Vietnam War and be a place for reflection for all who visit.

They expect to detail their ideas in a meeting Thursday with city Recreation and Parks Superintendent Leif Dahlin. Board of Aldermen President David Sagi is also expected to attend, according to John Bergeron, president of the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America.

"Certainly I'm supportive of the

idea," said Dahlin, who said he planned to listen to the proposal and then "begin the research of how to go about doing it so we can put something in place that will be appropriate and visible."

"What I'll be doing is taking it from there and reporting to the Recreation Committee, which then will get it to the Board of Aldermen and the mayor and, of course, I'll just check on any restrictions, conditions, as to how we would proceed with this," Dahlin said.

Bergeron said several members of his group have met regularly throughout the summer to discuss ideas for the memorial, which is expected to include a three-ton marble carving begun a decade and a half ago by an area veteran who died before it was finished.

Early on, Bergeron said, the
(See Page 13: Memorial)

Memorial

9/2/96

Continued from Page 11

group's focus was on the piece of marble and what to do with it, a question that had them stumped.

"Then somebody said we should have a place to go, to meditate, to reflect, and right away this mental block we had just evaporated," he said.

Bergeron said he and group member Andrew Moschetto quickly came back with similar designs.

Since then, he said, members have been soliciting estimates from area vendors and artisans to determine how much such an idea would cost. Bergeron said the estimates run anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The current plan is to create an oblong brick terrace flanked on four corners with plantings and bench-

es. Two sides would bear plaques listing the names of veterans killed in Vietnam or possibly all veterans who served in the conflict, and might possibly give facts about the war and the country of Vietnam.

On a third side would rest the marble carving, which Bergeron said a local sculptor has volunteered to complete with the full figure of a soldier.

In the center of the park, the veterans hope to have a bronze fountain in the shape of a "field cross"—a configuration of a bayonet, boots and helmet used to commemorate a fallen soldier.

Bergeron said the veterans' group plans to begin fund raising for the project once they have the final plans fleshed out and OK'd by the

city.

Staff for Sens. Patrick Leahy and James Jeffords and Rep. Bernard Sanders are currently researching whether any grant money is available to help fund the memorial, Bergeron said. Several area artisans and merchants have also offered to donate their services or materials either for free or at cost, he said.

The group hopes to dedicate the memorial either Aug. 9, 1997—the date a statewide Vietnam-era recognition day will be celebrated in Rutland—or on Veterans Day in November 1997, he said.

"I think the time is now, because the longer we prolong it, it may never get done," he said.

Rededication

On Memorial Day of 2000, Chapter 1, Vietnam Veterans of America dedicated this memorial in honor of the men and women from Rutland County who served in the Vietnam War. We intended, further, to honor all of the country's veterans, as expressed in the granite marker below the flag.

Our goal today is to rededicate the memorial for future generations, so that the service and sacrifice of the county's Vietnam veterans will be remembered. To that end, we are replacing the original sculpture that served as a centerpiece of the memorial. Signs of its aging caused us concern that its years were numbered.

We will continue to remember John Reno, who began the original carving, completed by West Rutland sculptor Don Ramey. Happily, Don has now provided us a new sculpture, carved from high-quality Danby Imperial marble, in the spirit of the original. Refinements in the new work more specifically reflect the Vietnam experience. We trust it will last for the foreseeable future.

Thanks to all, for your service, in or out of uniform. Thank you for your love of country, your love of home and family, and your love of each other.

Program

Prelude: "Ashoken Farewell"

Welcome Andy Megrath, Chapter 1 president

Invocation — Rev. Pete Hults

Pledge of Allegiance

Remarks — Rutland Mayor David Allaire

Rededication, Honor Roll — Andy Megrath

Recognition of Sculptor Don Ramey

Conclusion: "God Bless America"

Shaun and Danielle Tomasi
Gawet Marble & Granite
Fabian Earth Moving Kenny Heleba
Giancola Construction Corp.

Special Thanks

Gerald Granger, Rutland
Daniel Hogan, Rutland
Paul Hughes, Rutland
Thomas Roundeau, Rutland
Nicholas Ross, Rutland
Francis Timbers, Rutland
Mark Treanor, Rutland
Keith Wetmore, Brandon
Gary Reilly, Rutland
Stanislaus Reczek, West Rutland
Joseph Phillips, Poultney
Thomas Perry Jr., Fair Haven
Francis Timbers, Poultney
Mark Treanor, Rutland
Keith Wetmore, Brandon

Additions to Honor Roll

Thank You!

Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their significant contributions to the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and to the many other donors.

Please attend the dedication of the memorial Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day) at the south end of Main Street Park at 2 p.m.

Alderman's Chevrolet
American Legion Post 31
American Legion Post 49
Anything Graphic
Appliance Service Center
Steven J. Banik, P.E.
Best TV & Appliance
Michael T. Boston
Effie and Russell Brooks
Cabot Creamery Coop
J.P. Carrara & Sons
Carris Foundation
Carris Reels
Holiday Inn
Central Vermont Public Service
David Cleary
John Clogston
John Colombo
Comfort Inn
Cortina Inn
Cyclone Ventures
Densmore Electric
Design Graphics
Paula and Joe Donaldson
John A. Drew
H.A. Eddy
Edson Det., Marine Corps League
Eli's Auto Body
Essential Alternatives
Edward Fabian Earth Moving
First Vermont Bank
Christine F. Giddings
John and Elizabeth Gilligan
Gill's Deli

Henry A. Goddard
Richard and Pamela Green
Green Screen Graphics
Greenbrier Gift Shop
Greg's Auto
Harned Fowler Post 6741, VFW
Hawley's Florist
Head West
Howard Johnson's
Ted Hubbard
Johnson Energy
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Killington Ski Area
Tom Lafond
Leather Fashions
Lertola's Toyota
Maple Meadow Farm
Hugh S. McLeod III
McDonald's (Rutland)
Merriam Graves
Midway Diner & Restaurant
Buddy and Jim Miles
Mintzer Brothers
Elizabeth Moulton
Kevin Mullin
National Railroad Passenger Corp.
New England Outdoors
N.H. International Speedway
Noonan Transportation Co.
Otter Creek Brewing
Bob Parker, Architect
Party Store
Patch's Petroleum
Paul's Cleaners

Pittsford Mills
Pleuss-Stafer Industries
R.C. Pond Co.
Pratico's Landscaping & Fence
Proctor Coal Co.
Don Ramey
Tom and Carol Reardon
Donald Robichaud
Dennis Ross
Pete Ruby
Rutland Kiwanis
Rutland Fuel
Rutland Garden Club
Rutland Marble & Granite Co.
Seasons Circle
Sensible Shoe
Sevigny's Hunting & Fishing
Norman Sevigny
Faie Shepard
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Silva
Smalley Contractors
Stafford Tech. Eng. Design Class
T & T Tractor
Talk of the Town Hairstyling
Town of Rutland
Victoria Crossing
VFW Post 648
F.W. Webb
West Rutland Rotary Club
Westminster Crackers
Westside Press
Laurie Wilson





From left, Jack Crowther, Dick Doyle, Andy Moschetta, Tom Skinner, John Bergeron, Tom Reardon, Bill Whitney

Veterans Day 1997 at site of future
Vietnam memorial in Rutland

Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Story

Rutland County Vietnam-era veterans will dedicate their war memorial in Rutland's Main Street Park on May 29 at 2 p.m., culminating more than three years of active planning, fund-raising and construction. The public is invited to the event.

The roots of the project actually go back more than 20 years, and the ceremony will trace links to early self-help efforts by local Vietnam veterans. In fact, the centerpiece of the project is a marble sculpture begun in about 1981 by a Vietnam veteran named John Reno, who died in 1982 and had used the sculpting as a form of therapy. Reno died in 1982.

The timing of the ceremony coincides with the federal Memorial Day holiday. Mindful of Rutland's traditional ceremony in the morning at Evergreen Cemetery, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1, has planned their event for early afternoon.

The ceremony will include a color guard, reading of the honor roll and a speech by James Ryan, a local Air Force veteran of the war who now teaches at Norwich University. The names of the 18 men from Rutland County who died in the war are being engraved on the marble base of the sculpture and will be noted with placement of flowers by family members. Mary Margaret Ryan, a nurse who served in Vietnam in 1967-68, is heading up the honor roll portion of the event. Students from Rutland High and MSJ will assist.

Display boxes will list the names of those who entered the armed forces from the county and served in the war. Collection of those names has been ongoing for several years and is expected to continue, as there has been no easy source of this information. Eligible names may be submitted to VVA Chapter 1 by writing P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301 or contacting John Bergeron, president of Chapter 1, at his shoe repair shop on Center Street. A copy of the veteran's DD 214 form is required to substantiate Vietnam service and town of record.

This spring marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to the North Vietnamese,

as well as the 20th anniversary of Chapter 1 of Vietnam Veterans of America, making the

dedication of the memorial especially timely.

Most local veterans are probably aware that the efforts of Marine veteran Donald Bodette were greatly responsible for the very first Vietnam Veterans of America chapter being located in Rutland. Bodette convinced the founder of the organization, Bobby Muller, that it needed to have a structure of local chapters. Rutland's thus became the first.

Bodette died of cancer on Aug. 10, 1997, but his pioneering efforts will be commemorated on one of the display panels that is being created for the memorial. VVA now lists more than 50,000 members, including about 400 members in six Vermont chapters.

Those killed in action from Rutland County were: Allen Archer, Edward Birmingham, Richard Dexter, Joseph Fish, Joseph Sliva, and David Underhill, all of Rutland; Edward Henry and Joseph LaRose, both of Clarendon; Phillip Greene and John Sweeney, both of Poultney; Gilford Dashner and Gary Hall, both of Shrewsbury; Roger Clark of Pittsfield; Harvey Howard of Danby; Bruce Morrison of Proctor; Steven Pettis of West Haven; Kenneth Weightman of Wallingford; and Dennis Wilbur of Sherburne.

Many have contributed to the completion of the memorial project through donations of time and services, notably the VVA Memorial Committee, headed by Andrew Moschetto of Pittsford; Don Ramey of West Rutland, who completed the marble sculpture; Ernie Smalley of Smalley Contractors, serving as general contractor; and the Rutland Garden Club, which will contribute the landscaping of the site.

Red Sox top Yankees 4-1 in weekend series open

RUTLAND



ESTABLISHED 1794

H

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2000

RUTLAND, VERMONT



ALBERT J. MARRO / RUTLAND HERALD
Jack Crowther works on the descriptions surrounding the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Friday in Rutland's Main Street Park. The Rutland chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America provided the money and services for the memorial.

Due respect

Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be unveiled on Monday

By DAMIAN PAGANO
Herald Staff

Joe Lynch was at work at the Rutland Post Office recently when a young co-worker pointed to the Purple Heart license plate on his car and asked him what it was.

"She didn't know what a Purple Heart meant," he said Friday. "I couldn't believe it."

Lynch, a Vietnam veteran, told her it was a medal given to people wounded in battle. He received his after being hit by shrapnel from a Viet Cong anti-tank rocket

in February 1968.

"She just didn't know," he said.

But he hopes that the new Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is scheduled to be unveiled Monday at 2 p.m. just south of Main Street Park in Rutland, helps to educate young people about the country's longest war and those who served in it.

"I think it's something we need," Lynch said. "We have to get some of the younger people involved."

The memorial has been several years in the making. The monument itself is a 3-ton block of marble carved with the relief of a soldier lying at rest. A Vietnam vet-

er named John Reno started the project as a way to work through the anger and grief caused by his war experience.

But Reno died in a boating accident in 1982 and his vision went unrealized for several years.

The barely begun sculpture was moved from Reno's Fair Haven home to a sand pit in Castleton. John Bergeron, president of the Rutland Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, heard about Reno and the marble block and set about tracking it down.

"I was curious about what happened to

See Page A7: Memorial

Memorial: New Rutland monument honors veterans of Vietnam War

Continued from Page A1

it," Bergeron said. "So I started knocking on doors ... and one thing led to another and I found it."

To make a long story short, Bergeron took the marble block to the Carving Studio in West Rutland. Don Ramey, a sculptor there, agreed to finish the project for free.

"We talked about what we were going to do with it," Bergeron said. "John Reno had carved the soldier's face and part of a helmet, but it was pretty much unfinished. So we decided to do a relief of this soldier lying at rest. Sort of like a simple tomb."

The next step, Bergeron said, was to compile a list of Rutland County residents who served in Vietnam. The memorial was for

them, he said, and he wanted to include everybody.

He wanted to include people like Mary Margaret Ryan and Barbara Gleason — high school friends who enlisted together as nurses on Memorial Day 1967 and who saw the horrors of war while working at an Army field hospital.

He wanted to include people like James Ryan, who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and flew

more than 200 fighter and bomber missions over Southeast Asia.

He wanted to include David Underhill, Joseph Fish, Gary Hall and all of the other Rutland boys who were killed in action.

Bergeron didn't want to miss anyone.

"It took a little longer than we thought, but none of us are in the business of building monuments," he said.

And according to those whose names will appear on the monument, the wait was worth it.

"I am just so amazed at what they've done," Mary Ryan said. "I went to see 'The Wall' and 'The Women's Memorial' in Washington, but this has moved me more. And I think it's because of the sense of community that did this."

After returning from a one-year tour of duty, Ryan said she quietly settled down in Rutland — the city she was raised in. Her medical training as an Army nurse served her well and she got a nursing job at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Though she was not subjected to front-line combat in Vietnam or the taunts of protestors when she returned to the states, she said she still had a hard time talking about her experience.

"There's just some things you keep inside," she said.

But when high school teachers later asked her to speak to classes about the war, she decided she would start to let some of those things out.

She also got involved with the Vietnam Veterans of America a few months ago. Her job, she said, was to call the families of the 18 Rutland men killed in action and tell them about the dedication ceremony.

"I didn't know how to begin," she said. "I almost had to hang up the phone, because I thought I was going to burst into tears."

James Ryan is slightly more stoic about his experience. He wanted to go to war, he said, because he wanted to see what it was like.

"I'd heard about it and wanted to see for myself," he said. "But once I got my first taste of it, I wanted to leave."

Ryan spent eight years in the Air Force, including several years flying missions over Vietnam.

He will be the keynote speaker at Monday's ceremony, and he said his speech was tough to put together because of the wide range of emotions associated with the war.

"But the thing I learned was that each individual did their duty to the best of their ability over there. There is nothing to be ashamed of in that," he said. "And that can go for the people on both sides."

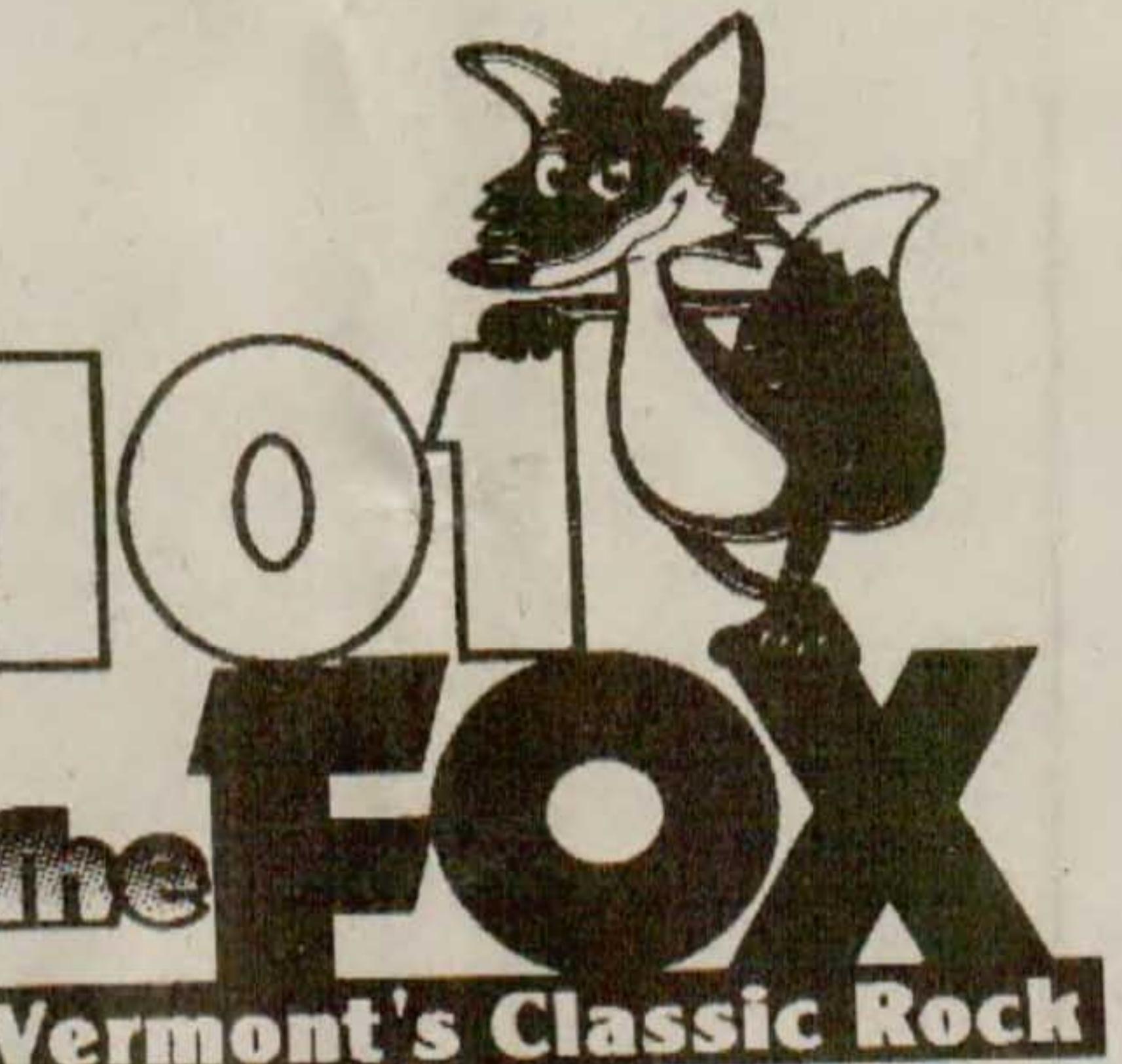
SATURDAY EVENING MAY 27, 2000

Channel Cbl Lcl 7:00 7:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30 10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00

BROADCAST STATIONS

Anger Walker return from the '14'	News	ER "Dr. Carter, I Presume" Carter's first day as a full-fledged doctor proves hellish. 'PG'
Amazing '14'	News	Saturday Night Live '14'
ester re. A wild man.	(11:12) News	(11:42) Baywatch Hawaii Dawn's new love shares some similarities with her ex-boyfriend. 'PG'
nits Special" 'G'	Movie ★★★ "Pretty Woman" (1990) An executive plays Pygmalion to a young streetwalker.	
Amazing '14'	Paid Program	Saturday Night Live '14'
Ranger (Part 2)	News	Howard Stern Radio Show 'MA'
Ranger (Part 2)	News	WCW Wrestling
Amazing '14'	News	Saturday Night Live '14'
wild newcomer	(11:12) News	(11:42) NYPD Blue "Up On the Roof" '14'
wild newcomer	(11:12) News	(11:42) Outer Limits "Descent" '14'
Stadium in St.	News	Seinfeld "The Note" 'PG'
s Vicar of Dibley	Ice Cream Show 'G'	Austin City Limits 'G'
L. Reeves, Lori	(10:50) Movie ★★½ "A View to a Kill" (1985) Agent 007 fights a genetic superman bent on world conquest.	
The Greatest" (1977) Chronicles Muhammad Ali's rise from child to champion.	Trek: Voyager 'PG'	
wild newcomer	(11:12) News	(11:47) Paid Program
Theatre "Monsignor Renard" '14'	Antiques Road 'G'	Sessions at West 54th
hanshu in L.A."	Mad TV '14'	Movie Stars (N) 'PG'

'Cause You're Never Too Old To ROCK n' ROLL.



101.5 FM

Updating Memorial 2001

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: John Bergeron 773-2815 (weekdays, after 2:30 p.m.)
Jack Crowther 775-1182

RELEASE DATE: Immediate July 16, 2001

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 1 WILL INSTALL NEW PANELS JULY 28 AT MEMORIAL IN RUTLAND

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1, of Rutland, will install new informational panels at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday, July 28, at 3:30 p.m. The panels include nearly 100 additional names added in the past year of veterans from Rutland County who served in the war.

Prepared by Green Screen Graphics, which donated its services, the panels are a more permanent and colorful version of those installed at the dedication of the memorial on May 29, 2000, and include the updated honor roll.

The latest honor roll includes the names of the 18 men killed in action in Vietnam from Rutland County and 220 men and women who served in the war.

The search for more names will continue, according to John Bergeron, president of Chapter 1, and the chapter will update the honor roll as appropriate. To be eligible, a veteran must have entered military service while living in Rutland County and must have served in Vietnam between 1959 and 1975. The veteran's DD214 form should be mailed to VVA Chapter 1, P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301 or given to a member of the chapter.

Jake Jacobsen is second from right in front row.



Groundbreaking for Vermont
Vietnam memorial in Sharon, 1981